



Dear Neighbor,

The 2008 General Assembly session made substantial gains this session by bringing homeowners property tax relief and significant reform to the state's outdated property tax system.

The Standards for Success, created by House Republicans, helped form the framework of much of the landmark property tax relief and reform signed into law by the governor. Homeowners across the state will see an average homestead property tax reduction of approximately 25 percent, they will have the school operating funds and child welfare removed from property tax, and they will have greater control over local spending through referenda. Limits on tax bills are now part of the Indiana Code, and the process has begun to include those limits in the state constitution.

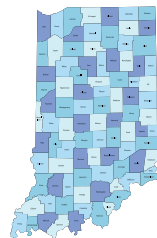
All these measures were passed in order to bring the tax burden under control and to limit government spending so that government does not grow faster than our ability to afford it.

This newsletter includes details of the property tax plan that gives you property tax relief and permanent reform.

No solution is perfect, but I am proud to have been able to join my colleagues in supporting tax reform at a time when Hoosiers need it most.

Best wishes,

Timothy Neese  
State Representative



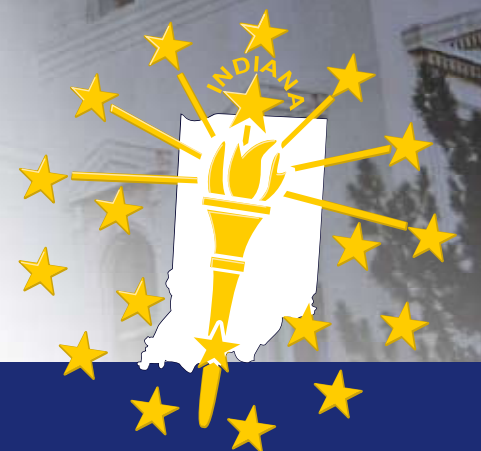
STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Tim Neese**  
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# HOOSIER *property tax* REFORM.

State Rep.  
**TIM NEESE**







# Immediate Relief. AND REFORM.

The General Assembly's property tax plan created the largest property tax cut in state history. The plan offers Hoosier taxpayers immediate relief and the promise of permanent reform.

### Help for Hoosier homeowners.

- Homeowners will see \$620 million in relief for 2008.
- \$1 billion has been removed from property tax levies.
- Referenda empower voters to control or allow spending.
- \$140 million of relief is planned for 2009, and \$80 million of relief in 2010.

### Help for all Hoosier property-tax payers.

- The plan reduces taxes now and forwards the process to cap property taxes forever through a constitutional guarantee of permanent caps of 1 percent of assessed value for homesteads, 2 percent for rental and agricultural properties and 3 percent for all others.
- The plan closes loopholes that allowed more government spending.

### Help for local governments.

- At the county level, the costs of four child-welfare levies, juvenile incarceration and health care for the indigent are removed from property taxes. The state picks up these costs.
- At the municipal level, it removes from property taxes the remaining pre-1977 police and fire pensions, and it includes support for police and fire services. These costs are covered by the state.

### Help for Hoosier schools.

- The plan removes school operations and special education preschool costs from property taxes. The state will pick up these costs.
- It also includes \$120 million in circuit-breaker relief and increases the tuition reserve fund money to \$400 million.

### Help for low-income Hoosiers.

- The plan includes an overall decrease in taxes for many low-income taxpayers, renters, low-income senior-citizen homeowners and the disabled.



State Representative  
Tim Neese

I always value your input, thoughts and ideas. Here is some important contact information to reach me as well as other important contact information you may find helpful:

### Contact Representative Neese

Statehouse Office:	800-382-9841
E-mail Address:	<a href="mailto:h48@iga.IN.gov">h48@iga.IN.gov</a>
Web site:	<a href="http://www.in.gov/h48">www.in.gov/h48</a>
Mailing Address:	200 W. Washington St. Room 401-7 Indianapolis, IN 46204
Home Phone	574-293-3894

### Important Numbers

State Information Center	800-457-8283
Federal Information Center	800-688-9889
Indiana House	800-382-9841
Indiana Senate	800-382-9467
Gov. Mitch Daniels	317-232-4567
Sec. of State Todd Rokita	317-232-6531

## More Than Just TAX RELIEF

The overarching goal of this legislative session was property tax relief. We were able to successfully give homeowners statewide approximately a 25-percent cut. While property tax relief got the most attention this year, we were able to pass other important legislation that will affect Hoosiers.

### House Enrolled Act 1052:

Under HEA 1052, any passenger who is either 15 years of age and holds a learner's permit or driver's license or is at least 18 years of age and is involved in a vehicle accident would be required to contact emergency personnel and render reasonable assistance if the driver is incapacitated. I authored this bill after a 2005 fatal car crash in Noble County involving a then 17-year-old. Two passengers, then 15, left the scene and did not report the accident to anyone. The 17-year-old was later found in his upside-down, submerged vehicle.

### House Enrolled Act 1271:

This law requires violent inmates to serve the majority of their sentences. Under current law, well-behaved inmates generally would serve only half of their sentences, receiving one day off for every good day served. Beginning July 1, certain violent offenders will serve 85 percent of their sentences, no matter how good their behavior may be.

### Senate Bill 345:

One major issue we worked on, but could not come to an agreement, was legislation dealing with illegal immigration. Senate Bill 345 would have required the superintendent of the Indiana State Police to enter into an agreement with the federal government concerning a pilot project for the enforcement of federal immigration and custom laws. Federal policy allows Indiana to reach an agreement with the U.S. attorney general to allow our law enforcement personnel to investigate, apprehend, detain and transport unauthorized aliens. This would have allowed Indiana police officers to transport undocumented immigrants to detention centers, so they could be processed and returned to their native country. The bill also would have required employers to use E-verify, an Internet-based system operated by the Department of Homeland Security in partnership with the Social Security Administration, that electronically verifies the employment eligibility of new hires.